

# W5YI

## America's Oldest Ham Radio Newsletter REPORT

Up to the minute news from the world of amateur radio, personal computing and emerging electronics. While no guarantee is made, information is from sources we believe to be reliable.

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## ARRL Seeks Reconsideration of New RF Exposure Rules!

The telecommunications industry is in an up-roar over the new RF exposure rules. The FCC has received more than a dozen Petitions for Reconsideration of their "Guidelines for Evaluating the Effects of Radiofrequency Radiation," ET Docket No. 93-62. They especially want the January 1, 1997 deadline for compliance to be extended.

The American Radio Relay League was among those that filed a Petition for Reconsideration. The League asked that the FCC reverse certain portions of the *Report and Order*. The League said the Report and Order was procedurally flawed since the FCC:

- 1.) Did not propose new RF safety rules on which the Amateur Radio community could comment,
- 2.) Asked for comment, not on the RF exposure guidelines themselves, but on the implementation of them, without substantive analysis...
- 3.) Suggested that the Commission had not decided to adopt the 1992 ANSI standard, but offered no other standard as an alternative,
- 4.) Proposed a standard for RF exposure, the details of which were not readily available to the general public for review, and;
- 5.) Addressed a subject that was, according to the Commission, beyond the Commission's expertise to adjudicate substantively anyway.

The ARRL said "These procedural difficulties were not addressed in the *Report and Order* what-

soever. The League had requested that the Commission either withdraw the Notice and recast the proceeding as a *Notice of Inquiry*, or terminate the proceeding without action and refer the matter to the Environmental Protection Agency."

The ARRL said the new rule changes "...were not earlier proposed, or even hinted at in the *Notice*, and yet they significantly affect the substantive obligations of licensed radio amateurs, and potentially restrict numerous present and future amateur installations."

### **The threshold for RF safety evaluation is unfair**

"The Commission established a blanket threshold level of amateur station transmitter output power (50 watts), beyond which amateur licensees must conduct an environmental self-evaluation of compliance with Maximum Permissible Exposure (MPE) levels. This threshold is not frequency dependent. It appears to have no scientific basis at all.

"This limitation too was first announced by the Commission in the *Report and Order*, and the public had no opportunity to comment on its appropriateness, or to suggest alternatives that might be less burdensome." The ARRL charges that the 50 watt threshold was established by the FCC with "...no consideration of antenna height or other variables, such as antenna gain, emission mode, or duty cycle included in the threshold computation..."

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...the 50-watt threshold for environmental evaluation is unfairly low."

"The fixed threshold limit of 50 watts does not consider how the MPE varies with frequency in the [new] standard and regulations," ARRL said. The League submitted a table showing how the 50 watt power level if applied to the 30 to 300 MHz range would permit a much higher power level on the other ham bands before an RF safety evaluation would be necessary.

Frequency	MPE (mW/cm <sup>2</sup> )	Scaled Power
2.0 MHz	45.00	> 1500.0 W
4.0 MHz	11.25	> 1500.0 W
7.3 MHz	3.38	845.0 W
10.15 MHz	1.75	437.5 W
14.35 MHz	0.88	220.0 W
18.168 MHz	0.55	137.5 W
21.45 MHz	0.39	97.5 W
24.990 MHz	0.29	72.5 W
29.7 MHz	0.20	50.0 W
54.0 MHz	0.20	50.0 W
148.0 MHz	0.20	50.0 W
225.0 MHz	0.20	50.0 W
420.0 MHz	0.28	70.0 W
902.0 MHz	0.60	150.0 W
1240.0 MHz	0.83	207.5 W

The League asked that the 50 watt transmitter power output (TPO) threshold "...be modified to incorporate the power levels contained in the foregoing table, or else increase the threshold to at least 150 watts TPO, if all parts of the antenna are located at least 10 meters from any area of uncontrolled exposure."

## Pre-empt non-Federal exposure regulations

The ARRL said that although the Commission adopted "a comprehensive regulatory scheme for limiting and evaluating RF exposure in controlled and uncontrolled environments from amateur stations, the Commission refused to preempt even arbitrarily established, more restrictive State and local government regulation of those same facilities. Yet the Commission did preempt State or local regulation of 'personal wireless service facilities' based on environmental effects of RF emissions pursuant to the *Telecommunications Act of 1996*, Section 704. There is no possible justification for preempting State and local RF exposure regulations (in favor of Commission regulation) for one radio service and not for others similarly situated."

"Because of the Commission's arbitrary refusal to preempt non-Federal regulation of RF exposure, other than with respect to a small category of radio services, amateur licensees are in the untenable position of having to conduct Federal environmental assessments to deter-

mine compliance, and potentially limit their communications capability or station configuration, only to be subjected thereafter to arbitrary denials of land use or other State of local authorizations based on the fact that the station exceeds whatever locally-established limitations may exist."

The ARRL added, "...the combination of the new RF exposure regulations and the Commission's allowance of municipal or private land use regulation of antennas based on RF exposure concerns is tantamount to a license revocation; it will in many cases preclude the operation of amateur stations subject to both Federal and non-Federal restrictions. This is especially true with respect to deed restrictions, which currently, in many, if not most, metropolitan and suburban areas throughout the United States, preclude all outdoor antennas. If amateurs cannot operate using outdoor antennas due to deed restrictions, and they cannot use indoor antennas (which are largely ineffective anyway) due to concern about exceeding MPE levels, all amateur communication is precluded."

## Unreasonable burdens on VECs and VEs...

The League also said that the new rules also "...placed serious burdens and costs on the volunteer entities that prepare and administer amateur radio [license] examinations. These burdens could have been avoided, or at least addressed, had the Commission given adequate notice of its intentions in this proceeding, in a corrected or further notice of rule making."

"The rules ...contain substantive obligations with respect to Amateur Radio licensees, relative to the station evaluations to be conducted by essentially all licensees, and the means by which examinations are to be prepared and administered in the Amateur Service. The rules governing amateur radio examinations were made effective immediately (August 7, 1996), though there was no way for radio amateur volunteer groups to immediately make the necessary examination changes to comply with the new regulations. Neither has there been issued a revised OET (Office of Engineering and Technology) Bulletin 65, or a separate bulletin, to assist Amateur Radio licensees in determining MPE compliance, or any indication of what those documents, if and when released, might contain by way of substantive obligations of the licensee." The ARRL also noted that the license manuals of many publishers were invalidated by the FCC's changes which were made effective immediately and without advance notice

The League also took the FCC to task for falsely giving the impression that "ARRL Bio-Effects Committee" was League sanctioned. "The individuals who filed comments did so expressly in their individual capacities, and not as representatives of the ARRL, or of any committee of the American Radio Relay League, Inc."



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## FCC LEVIES \$6,000 FINE AGAINST ARIZONA MAN FOR CB AND AMATEUR RADIO VIOLATIONS

On September 3, 1996, the FCC's Compliance Division released a *Notice of Apparent Liability* (NAL) against Timothy Harold Hoffman of Phoenix, Arizona advising him that he is being fined \$6,000 for violations of various amateur radio rules.

The violation resulted from Timothy Harold Hoffman's operation of a radio transmitter on amateur radio service frequencies without a valid license, failure to allow inspection of the radio station by authorized FCC personnel, willful and malicious interference to radio communications of licensed stations and operation on CB channel 36 (27.365 MHz), to transmit one-way communications.

On the evening of May 14, 1995, agents from the Douglas Field Office of the FCC's Compliance and Information Bureau (CIB), using mobile direction finding techniques, detected lower sideband radio signals on citizens band channel 36 coming from an antenna located at 911 West Highland Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona. The transmissions consisted of retransmitted signals from an amateur radio service repeater on 147.24 MHz. These were signals received by Mr. Hoffman, who then used radio transmitting equipment to re-broadcast the material received.

The Commission's agents observed the following violations: transmissions of one-way communications and transmission of material to amuse or entertain which are prohibited by CB Rule 13.

On May 15 1995 agents from the Douglas Field Office, using mobile direction techniques, detected radio signals being transmitted on 146.34 MHz, coming from an antenna located at 911 West Highland Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona. The operator making the transmission used the amateur radio service call sign N7ZZT. The agents checked FCC records and found that this amateur radio service call sign was not issued to Mr. Hoffman, and no amateur license has ever been granted to Mr. Hoffman.

After positive direction finding results indicating the transmissions were being emitted from Mr. Hoffman's residence, the FCC agents attempted to inspect his radio station. The adult male that came to the door admitted to being Timothy Hoffman, but would not allow the agents to inspect the radio installation. Mr. Hoffman would not confirm or deny the radio operation when asked by the FCC inspectors. Further transmissions from the residence ceased immediately after the attempted inspection.

On June 26, 1995, an *Official Notice of Violation* (NOV) was issued by the Douglas Field Office to Timothy Harold Hoffman. The NOV advised Mr. Hoffman of the violations.

The Douglas Field Office received a response to the NOV from Mr. Hoffman on July 5, 1995, in which he admitted he was responsible for the violations. The FCC ruled, "Based on a review of the facts and in light of the factors outlined in Section 503(b) of the Act, we believe the appropriate amount for this violation is \$6,000."

Hoffman was ordered to pay the \$6,000 fine by October 3<sup>rd</sup> or file a written response showing why the forfeiture should be reduced or not imposed. "Any written response must include a detailed factual statement and supporting documentation. Forfeitures shall be paid by check, money order or credit card drawn on a United States financial institution payable to the Federal Communications Commission."

"Claims of inability to pay should be supported by tax returns or other financial statements prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles for the most recent three years." Hoffman may request to pay the fine by credit card or on the installment plan.

## FEMA SPEAKS OUT AGAINST REALLOCATION OF 2-METER AND 70-CM AMATEUR RADIO BANDS

Paul K. Reid, N4EKW (General Class of Stephen, VA) is the frequency manager at the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) headquarters in Washington, DC. On August 1<sup>st</sup>, Reid wrote the following letter to the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission on official FEMA letterhead.

Reference No. ISP-96-005, IWG 2A

*Editor's Note: Informal Working Group 2A is the broad-based panel of FCC, State Department and telecommunications industry experts preparing U.S. Mobile Satellite Service proposals for the upcoming 1997 World Telecommunication Conference. Two of the candidate bands for low-earth orbit (LEO) satellites include the 2-meter and 450-MHz Amateur bands.*

Dear Secretary:

"The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is the lead agency for emergency planning and response activities in the Federal Government. FEMA is the Executive Agent for administering the Stafford Act, P.L. 93-288 as amended, for coordinating the Federal response to catastrophic disasters.

"As such, FEMA is responsible for coordinating overall Federal planning for, and response to, natural disasters and most man-caused disasters in the United States. Under the provisions of Executive Order 12656, FEMA is responsible for coordinating National Security Emergency Preparedness programs and plans among Federal departments and agencies, coordinating the



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development of plans, in cooperation with the Secretary of Defense, for mutual civil-military support during National Security Emergencies; and in guiding and assisting State and local governments in achieving preparedness for National Security Emergencies.

"FEMA also establishes, policy and guidance for, and provides assistance to, State and local governments in the coordination of emergency preparedness and response, recovery, and mitigation activities as well as the development and operation of telecommunications and warning systems.

"It is our understanding that the above working group has proposed that the 144-148 MHz and 420-450 MHz Amateur Radio bands be considered for use in expanding the Mobile Satellite Service.

"Amateur Radio operators have a history of supporting State and local government emergency operations by providing communications. This support is provided through formal organizations such as the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) program and the American Radio Relay League's Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) program as well as thousands of local ham clubs. Many of the local communities served by these Hams have extremely limited resources and would be without a backup communications system were it not for the Hams. The services provided by these Hams often involves life threatening situations.

"FEMA has been in contact with our State and local emergency management partners throughout the nation. It is our belief that authorizing the mobile satellite service to operate on the above mentioned Amateur bands will seriously degrade their ability to support their public safety requirements. We strongly urge the Commission to remove these Amateur bands from further consideration."

(Signed:) Paul K. Reid, Jr., Frequency Manager.

*The following News Release was issued by the FCC on September 16, 1996.*

## **FCC EXPANDS TOLL-FREE INFORMATION SERVICE**

Consumers in Illinois, Minnesota, Michigan, Oklahoma, South Carolina and Georgia are now able to reach the Federal Communications Commission's National Call Center by calling 1-888-CALL-FCC (1-888-225-5322). As part of its ongoing commitment to make information available to the public expeditiously and inexpensively, the Commission is expanding the service area of its toll-free information phone line. Delaware, Florida, Kansas, Maine, Montana, Nebraska, Virginia, Vermont, and Wyoming were introduced to this service earlier this year.

The FCC's new centralized Call Center will respond to all telecommunications issues including, but not limited

to, broadcasting, cable, new technologies, telephone rates or charges on your phone bill, answer questions about long distance carriers, or provide information on obtaining a license or form, filing a complaint, or expressing a concern about what a local radio or television broadcast station aired. When Commission subject matter experts must be consulted, the call will be electronically transferred directly from the Call Center to FCC Washington Headquarters at no additional cost to the caller.

Full Call Center services are available to the hearing impaired through the Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TTY) and can be accessed by dialing 1-888-TELL-FCC (1-888-835-5322). Full-time bilingual (English/Spanish) Call Center Specialists are also available to assist the public.

The toll-free Call Center services are being phased in geographically (approximately 3-5 states per week) over a period of several months with full nationwide coverage planned by early 1997. The current limited availability of the FCC 1-888 service is to allow for employee training, software and hardware testing, and the gathering of vital research data critical to the overall success of the FCC's National Call Center service. FCC Field agents will be working at the local level to ensure that public notification is given once the service goes on line in each state.

The Call Center is operated by the FCC's Compliance and Information Bureau (CIB) and is located in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. The Call Center's hours of operation are 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Eastern Time.

• **The U.S. Air Force Region One M.A.R.S. Conference will be held in Columbus, Ohio on November 1, 2 and 3, 1996.** MARS is the Military Affiliate Radio System. Featured will be forums on RTTY, Packet, PACTOR, AMTOR and BBS modes of transmission. In addition, State, Regional and National MARS Officers will conduct informational seminars and present awards. The Columbus USAF MARS repeater will be monitored for talk-in assistance. Input frequency is 142.150 MHz, output 143.450 MHz. (This is a U.S. military frequency pair and not on the ham bands.) The topic of the convention will be the conversion to digital communications for MARS traffic handling. Effective October 1, 1996, Morse code communications is no longer used in the Military Affiliate Radio System. Contact Jerry Lowery AFA1XZ, Conference Chairman at 614/866-8341.

• **Barry Goldwater, K7UGA, (Age 87) is recuperating** at the St. Joseph's Medical Center in Phoenix, Arizona after suffering a mild stroke. Founder of the modern conservative movement, Goldwater ran for the U.S. presidency as the GOP's nominee in 1964 against Lyndon Johnson. He retired from the U.S. Senate in 1987.



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- **The radio spectrum continues to be the Clinton administrations biggest cash cow.** The nation's police departments are lobbying to obtain spectrum presently allocated to TV broadcasting for digital police mobile-radio and emergency use. Targeted are unused TV channels 60 through 69 (746-806 MHz) which the FCC and the White House plan to auction to the highest bidder. Law enforcement officials want the government to earmark four (24 MHz) of the ten channels for free public-safety use. President Clinton has already said he will use \$5 billion of the auction proceeds to help renovate the nation's schools.

- **The domestic PC market continues to grow** for most computer firms. Research firms are predicting an annual 15% increase in sales for the calendar year. But not every company is doing well. AST (which purchased Tandy Radio Shack's personal computer business) continues to lose money. The top three U.S. brands are Compaq, Packard-Bell and IBM. Apple is concentrating on higher end machines and licensing its Macintosh operating system to low end "clone" makers.

- **According to Nielsen Media Research, Internet use has increased dramatically in the past six months** while user's median incomes, and education levels dropped somewhat. There are now 50% more Internet users (36 million versus 24 million.)

- **The browser war lingers on! Netscape is charging Microsoft with unfair competition.** Both have brand new 3.0 Versions. Netscape says Microsoft is giving discounts to PC makers that load its World Wide Web browser software on their computers ...and is paying Internet Service Providers "marketing funds" to promote their Microsoft "Explorer" browser instead of the Netscape "Navigator."

In a comparative review, the *Wall Street Journal* gave the browser edge to Microsoft "...because it is easier to use and has a cleaner, more flexible user interface - the controls, icons and menus users employ to get things done. Internet Explorer seems to have been designed with more attention to the needs of average, non-technical users."

The downside is that the Microsoft Explorer only works on Windows 95 -- and it requires a stunning 63 megabytes of

hard-disk space while it is being installed. A Windows 3.1 version won't be available until year end.

Microsoft is certainly well aware that eight out of ten WWW surfers (40 million worldwide) use Netscape ...and Microsoft is pulling out all the stops to catch up. To give you an idea how important Microsoft believes the browser "platform" is, they are spending \$5 million to promote a product that they say they never intend to sell! The final version will always be offered for free downloading. The financial community apparently believes Microsoft will eventually win the battle. It's stock is increasing, Netscape's: declining.

- **On-line computer services are assuming a lower profile while "The Web" flourishes.** "Prodigy" (with less than a million subscribers) was sold to International Wireless for \$250 million which plans to get the information service going in lesser developed countries. Toward that end, a Spanish version is in the works. It cost IBM and Sears \$1 billion to develop the service. Prodigy president/CEO (Edward Bennett) was recently replaced and pigeon-holed to a much lesser position.

"CompuServe" (with 3.5 million subscribers) also reshuffled their top management and consolidated operations. Their new "WOW!" service (aimed at kids) has not been an overwhelming success. Owner H&R Block is in the process of separating CompuServe from its core tax preparation business.

Market leader, "American Online" (with 6 million subscribers) is also having its problems. They recently had a 19-hour blackout. And their "churn rate" is escalating ...50% of its customer base now turns over in a year. Fewer newcomers are sticking around after their free 15-hour tryout.

AOL makes a profit, but primarily through its accounting practices. They spent \$100 million in "deferred" marketing costs during a 3-month period to lure 1-million new members. That's \$100 per recruit. To show a profit, AOL spreads the cost of getting these new members over an extended period. The idea is that these new members will more than pay off the marketing costs in the "future." That works only if the business grows. AOL now has nearly \$300 million in "deferred" costs! American Online (like Prodigy) is in the process of relaunching a new look.

The bottom line is that the entire

once hot on-line industry is in the doldrums. Most of their income comes from subscribers. The much heralded on-line commerce and advertising bonanza has yet to materialize.

- **"The Web" keeps winding its way toward the living room TV.** Sega (the video game people) is launching a (\$200) NetLink hookup for its game player. Users will be able to browse the Web and send e-mail using NetLink, a Sega player and a television screen. Eventually Sega will offer multi-player games over the global Internet. America Online also will unveil a multi-player "CyberPark" game service over the Internet this fall.

Sony and Phillips are in the process of introducing their remote control device operated WebTV terminal. The \$300 gadget allows users to surf and send e-mail. It sits on the TV like a VCR. The system uses large fonts to make Web pages more readable on a standard television set. A \$79 wireless keyboard is available if you don't want to tap out e-mail letter-by-letter from your remote control.

- **The "@ Home Network", a high speed cable modem based Internet service** backed by the nation's largest cable operators (TCI, Cox, ...Comcast) will be rolled out by year end. They have already lined up 65 providers who will deliver content to PCS with an Ethernet card installed.

- **Vern Riportella, WA2LQQ, the third president of AMSAT-NA, died suddenly** but peacefully on Friday, September 13, at his home in Warwick, NY. "Rip" was only 53 years of age; the cause of death was a heart attack. A former officer in the U.S. Air Force, "Rip" became active in AMSAT affairs in the late 1970s, rising to the position of executive vice president. He was elected president in 1984, serving until 1987. Expressions of sympathy may be sent to his wife, Ellen Riportella, P.O. Box 177, Warwick, NY 10990.

- **Ben Kobb, KC5CW has just come out with the Third Edition of his Spectrum Guide.** The 375-page reference profiles amateur, commercial, scientific and government uses of the U.S. spectrum in the more than 300 VHF-EHF bands between 30 MHz and 300 GHz. Cost is \$34.95 + \$5 shipping/handling from (toll free) 800-460-0090. Kobb has an MS in telecommunications from the University of Colorado.



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## MORE ON REPEATER COORDINATORS ORGANIZE

On October 7, 1995, Amateur repeater coordinators met in a St. Louis suburb to consider organizing into a "single-point-of-contact" (SPOC). Among other advantages, the SPOC would improve communications between the repeater community and the FCC since the Commission would be able to deal with a single organization with which it could address repeater regulatory and interference matters. A committee was appointed to draft a proposal looking toward a single repeater coordinator's organization.

A plan has now been proposed that seeks to create the National Frequency Coordinator's Council (NFCC). The formation of the NFCC is the direct result of the perceived need to have an organization which speaks for the problems facing the nation's frequency coordinators.

A National Frequency Coordinator's Office (NFCO) will be established within the NFCC to serve as the communications channel between the repeater community and the FCC.

Below, is the text of the agreed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that the ARRL board is expected to approve at its October meeting. It was provided to us by Dick Isely, WD9GIG, an NFCC Director and President of the Mid-Atlantic Coordinating Council. (MACC)

### **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

**Between the**

**NATIONAL FREQUENCY COORDINATORS' COUNCIL, INC.  
And THE AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE, INC.**

The National Frequency Coordinators' Council, Incorporated (NFCC) and the American Radio Relay League, Incorporated (ARRL) share the common goals of enhancement, recognition and development of Amateur Radio frequency coordination. These goals will be accomplished through improved relations and communication between and among local frequency coordination entities, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), the ARRL, NFCC and all Amateur Radio Service (ARS) licensees.

The parties wish to formalize their mutual recognition, responsibility, support and commitment, each to the other, to achieve their common goals.

The parties, in a spirit of cooperation and mutual respect, hereby state their terms of agreement and common understanding as follows:

#### **I. DEFINITIONS**

1. The National Frequency Coordinator's Council (NFCC) is a District of Columbia non-profit corporation, the membership of which is composed of delegates from recognized frequency coordinators in the United States.
2. The American Radio Relay League (ARRL) is a

Connecticut, non-profit, Section 501(c)(3) Corporation whose members are radio amateurs, organized for the promotion of interest in Amateur Radio communication and experimentation, for the establishment of networks to provide communications in the event of disasters or other emergencies, for public service in any form, for the advancement of the radio art and public welfare, for the representation of the radio amateur in legislative matters (both national and international), and for the maintenance of fraternalism and a high standard of conduct.

3. The National Frequency Coordinators' Office (NFCO) is the administrative office functioning on behalf of the NFCC as the single point of administrative contact and the national information exchange for ARS frequency coordination information.

#### **II. THE NFCC WILL:**

1. Develop, and recommend for adoption by coordinators, fair and equitable standards and procedures for frequency coordination throughout the United States, its territories and possessions.
2. Provide and administer a fair and equitable process for dispute and interference resolution related to frequency coordination.
3. Foster and promote the introduction and use of technologies which offer increased efficiencies in the use of spectrum used by repeaters and auxiliary stations.
4. Communicate with ARRL regarding regulatory and technical modifications or enhancements necessary or desirable for the promotion of frequency coordination and the fair and responsible administration thereof.
5. Establish standards and procedures for identification, certification and decertification, and the orderly succession of frequency coordinators.
6. In areas in which NFCC and ARRL agree on matters of Amateur regulatory, technical or operating policy, NFCC will cooperate with ARRL and utilize its resources to achieve common goals.
7. Collect and supply data to ARRL verifying band occupancy and usage to protect and enhance amateur spectrum allocations.

#### **III. THE ARRL WILL:**

1. Provide suitable resources and support for the NFCO.
2. Recognize the independence of the NFCC and support and encourage the NFCC in the common goals defined herein.
3. Communicate with the NFCC regarding regulatory and technical modifications or enhancements believed by ARRL to be necessary or desirable to the ARS, to the extent that such may impact frequency



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coordination, or the fair and responsible administration thereof.

4. Disseminate to the amateur community at large the identity and contact information for NFCC-certified frequency coordinators.
5. In areas in which the NFCC and ARRL agree on matters of Amateur regulatory, technical or operating policy, the ARRL will cooperate with the NFCC and utilize its resources to achieve common goals.
6. At the sole discretion of its Board of Directors, the ARRL may, from time to time, make contributions to the operations of the NFCC.

#### IV. THE NFCC WILL:

1. Maintain the national database for all matters affecting frequency coordination in the United States, its territories and possessions.
2. Serve as day-to-day primary channel for communications between the NFCC and the FCC.
3. Serve as the central repository for information concerning standards and procedures for frequency coordinators; procedures for dispute resolution related to frequency coordination and interference related to repeater operation; and identification, certification, decertification, and succession of frequency coordinators.

#### V. LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY AGENDA

The ARRL and the NFCC will jointly and cooperatively develop annually an agenda of legislative and regulatory goals for the enhancement, recognition and development of Amateur Radio frequency coordination.

#### VI. IMPLEMENTATION, AMENDMENT, AND TERMINATION

This Memorandum of Understanding shall take effect upon signature by authorized officials of the ARRL and the NFCC. It may be amended by mutual agreement of both parties in writing, and will remain in effect until terminated upon ninety (90) days prior written notice to either party by the other. The ARRL and the NFCC will periodically review the provisions hereof and coordinate such revisions as may be necessary.

In witness whereof, the parties hereto have placed their hands and seals as of the following dates.

NATIONAL FREQUENCY COORDINATORS' COUNCIL, INC.

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Its President Date

AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE, INCORPORATED

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Its President Date

#### AMATEUR RADIO PIONEER RECEIVES AWARDS

Al Gross, W8PAL of Youngstown, Arizona has been awarded the "Pioneer Award" by the Personal Communications Industry Association (PCIA) for "...landmark contributions to the wireless industry. Gross is considered the inventor of the handheld transceiver, the first CB radio and the repeater.

Before World War II, Al Gross developed a high-frequency handheld radio. During the war, he built a two-way radio used in ground-to-air communications between pilots and agents behind enemy lines. Gross was a member of the Office of Strategic Services, fore-runner to the Central Intelligence Agency.

In 1945, the FCC granted Gross two experimental licenses to develop emergency radios for use by the U.S. Maritime Commission and the War Shipping Administration. Three years later, the U.S. Coast Guard contracted with Cleveland-based Gross Electronics Corp., to manufacture the radio, which operated at 415.8 MHz.

Gross also received patents for one of the first personal radio transceivers, a hospital pager system, a battery-operated digital calculator, an anti-aircraft proximity fuse and a prototype wrist watch later featured in the Dick Tracy comic strip.

Al Gross was also guest speaker at the 71<sup>st</sup> anniversary dinner of the Veteran Wireless Operators Association and this year's recipient of the VWOA *Marconi Gold Medal of Achievement*. The Veteran Wireless Operators Association as a fraternal group to pay homage to international naval and merchant marine telegraphers and radio operators.

W8PAL (now age 76) says he has been in ham radio for 67 years. He is currently a Senior Principle Engineer at Orbital Sciences Corp., in Chandler, Arizona.

• **The American Radio Relay League says it will petition the FCC** and request that Advanced Class volunteer examiners be permitted to administer all examination elements required for the General Class. At present, only Amateur Extra Class VEs may administer written Element 3B and the 13 words-per-minute (Element 1B) telegraphy examination.

The League also said that it will reimburse each recognized local frequency coordination body an amount equivalent to the cost of collecting the data independently in exchange for using the data without restraint. The ARRL needs this information for their annual Repeater Directory.

The ARRL Board directed its staff and counsel to pursue legislation that would permit the FCC to temporarily suspend an Amateur Radio operator license when sufficient evidence exists to establish intentional Communications Act and Part 97 rules violations.



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## FCC MAKES THE VANITY CALL SIGN REQUEST AVAILABLE FOR AN ELECTRONIC FILING TEST

On September 11, the FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau placed a Beta test version of the electronic Amateur Station Vanity Call Sign Request form 610-V on their website. It is available on the Internet at <http://www.fcc.gov/wtb/amradsrv.html>. By the time you read this, however, the Interactive Beta Test should be up and running as the production version ...just in time for the opening of Gate 2 which opens on September 23rd. Detailed filing instructions are available by clicking on the item number on the Internet form.

The Internet electronic filing test was available for approximately one week. The plans are for the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau to eventually allow applicants for all services to submit their application over the Internet and encouraged all parties that are interested in electronic filing to participate in this test. Beta testers were asked to submit their written comments and suggestions regarding electronic filing to the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau at: [webmail@fcc.gov](mailto:webmail@fcc.gov).

At press time, a public notice was to be released announcing the availability and instructions for accessing the production version of the electronic Amateur Station Vanity Call Sign Request form.

## WE TESTED THE BETA VERSION OF THE ELECTRONIC VANITY CALL SIGN REQUEST - FORM 610V

...and found it very easy to use. (But there were some surprises!) After you reach the Wireless Telecommunication Bureau's website - you mouse click on the highlighted "Interactive Beta Test Server" link. You are then taken to the "Beta Test Site" where you click on "Form FCC 610V."

The two page form is basically the same as the paper copy of the FCC Form 610-V, Amateur Station Vanity Call Sign Request with the exception that the No. 4, 5 and 6 blanks entitled: "Payment Type Code-WAVR", "Fee Due" and "For FCC Use Only" are not included and Item No. 8 (where you would attach a copy of your current license is also missing.

If you click on the other highlighted item numbers, you are taken to the instruction sheet: "Form 610V - Amateur Vanity Help Contents."

**Item No. 1 - Name:** It is VERY IMPORTANT that your last name be entered first and that it be exactly the same as entered on your current license. The reason for this is that this is the data that the FCC's computer will key on. The name can be entered in either Lower and Upper - or just Upper case.

Our understanding is that your last name and your station call sign are used to access the information that the FCC already has in their database on your station.

And this is the name/address information will be printed on your new Vanity call sign station license - regardless of the mailing address that you enter in Item No. 3. (Enter the trustee's name first ...then the club name if the application is for a club station vanity call sign.)

**Item No. 2 - Date of Birth:** If you were born on September 20, 1944, you must enter 09-20-44 ...six digits with hyphens after the month and day. No other format is acceptable.

**Item No. 3 - Mailing Address:** Your mailing address MUST agree with your current license. If it doesn't, then the license will still be sent to the address that the FCC has on record! You can NOT use the Form 610-V to advise the FCC of a new mailing address ...or to have your new Vanity call sign license sent to a different address!

**Item No. 6 - Current Call Sign:** is the call sign you now hold ...the call sign that you will be vacating (giving up.)

**Item No. 7 - Eligibility:** Gate No. 2 opens on Monday, September 23. The FCC is date stamping (and NOT time stamping) the receipt date on applications sent to the Mellon Bank in Pittsburgh. All applications received on that day will be handled first by the processor in Gettysburg - as will the applications electronically filed directly to Gettysburg. We were told that the FCC would be holding the electronically filed Form 610-V's until the first day's applications arrived from the Pittsburgh filing address. Then both the first day's electronically and delivered Form 610-V applications would be handled together in random order.

Mouse click on 7E if you are an Amateur Extra Class operator and want to change your current call sign. You qualify for any assignable format of Group A, B, C or D station call sign. Most will want a 1-by-2 call sign beginning with W, K or N. Click on 7F if you are an Amateur Extra Class trustee of a club station.

**Item No. 9 - Call Sign Preference List:** is where you enter your 25 vanity call signs in order of preference. The Beta copy went from left to right which meant that you first filled in Item No. 1, then 6, 11, 16, 21 - before getting to your second selection. Possibly this will be corrected before the "production" version is posted. We also noted that the electronic program does not check and reject station call signs that can not be assigned for one reason or another.

You do NOT have to fill in all 25 blanks. You can select a single call sign if you wish. And if you do not get it, we understand that your \$30.00 fee will eventually be refunded. (You will have to apply for the refund.)

**Item No. 10 - Signature:** You "sign" the Form 610-V by typing in your name. You MUST fill in this blank.



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**Item No. 11 - Date Signed:** The current date is entered for you.

**Item No. 12 - Daytime Telephone No.:** is the telephone number where you may be reached during FCC normal business hours - Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

## Submitting the FCC Form 610-V Electronically...

At the bottom on this page are two "buttons". Click either "Submit" (if all the information is correct) ...or "Clear" if you want to re-enter all of the data. An error message appears if you do not complete four key items: Item No. 1 (Name with Last Name first), Item No. 6 (your current call sign), check one box in questions 7A through 7F (most Amateurs will be checking 7E) and Item No. 10 (your signature). You then use the "back" button of your browser to correct the form. (Strangely, if you fill in all information except your chosen Vanity call sign(s), you do not get an error message! This too will probably be corrected.) If the program accepts your submission, you are then taken to the submission confirmation section.

The next two pages containing your application number can be printed out and retained. It will contain your ten digit number. The first six digits are the date ...the last four a record number. The record number is NOT a sequential number. In fact, the Beta test site started with a high four digit number and was reducing this number by one each time an application was submitted. The reason for the reverse number is so that Amateurs will not feel that this is a sequential number which has a bearing on when the application will be processed. The FCC has made it very clear (several times) that ONLY the date that the application is received impacts the processing order. Retain the two page "Submission Confirmation" since it is an indication that your Vanity call sign application has been successfully handled. This form also contains a copy of all the information that you submitted to the FCC.

## Paying the bill...

Near the top of the "Submission Confirmation" is a "fee processing" button. When pressed, you are transported to the electronic version of the FCC Form 159, FCC Remittance Advice.

**Item No. 1 - FCC Account No.:** Enter your ten digit telephone number (without hyphens). This is a self-assigned FCC Account Number. For example, 2011234567 would be entered for telephone number: (201)-123-4567.

**Item No. 3 through 10 - Payor information:** will be entered for you. A change is required to items 3-10 only if the payor is different from applicant. The payor is, of course, the name of the person who is submitting the

check, money order or credit card.

**Item No. 11 through 21 - Applicant information:** also will be entered for you by the program. This information is automatically extracted from the Form 610-V.

Press the "Submit" button and you - providing no errors have not made - will be taken to the Remittance Advice submission confirmation. You will note that the Payor and Applicant Information has been completed.

**Item No. 22 - Credit card payment information:** The initial plan was that applicants would be able to type in their VISA or MasterCard and submit it over the Internet. But due to security concerns, the FCC is not yet letting applicants submit their credit card information electronically. You will have to handwrite in your 13 or 16 digit VISA or MasterCard credit card account number after you print out the Form 159. No other credit cards (such as Discover or American Express) are acceptable. Check this account number very carefully. Enter the expiration date (such as 07-98)

**Item No. 23 - Authorized signature:** Type in the name of the applicant and enter the date.

Print out these two pages and send it along with your payment (either check/money order ...or credit card information) to: Federal Communications Commission, Amateur Vanity, P.O. Box 358994, Pittsburgh, PA 15251-5994.

This last part was a total surprise to those of us who attended a demonstration of the Interactive Electronic Form 610-V Filing System held this past summer at the FCC in Gettysburg, PA in conjunction with the VEC Conference. We were given no indication that both checks and credit card numbers would have to be submitted to the FCC by mail. Apparently the plan now is to allow the filing of all applications electronically even those paid by check. Instead of entering the credit card number onto the electronic application, the system now is to forward the \$30 check or credit card number to the FCC's fee collection contractor in Pittsburgh.

We were specifically told that Vanity call signs will be assigned immediately after receipt of the electronic filing. In other words, the FCC will not wait for the check or credit card number to arrive or clear before assigning the call sign. The "paperwork" (that is, matching the Remittance Advice and the \$30 fee paid to the call sign) will be handled later. And any call signs issued that have not been properly paid for will be later reversed.

Our deadline for this newsletter closes on Friday, September 20 and Gate No. 2 opens September 23<sup>rd</sup>. At this point we have every reason to believe that electronic filing will begin on that day. "That's the plan, the FCC told us." Do not contact the Mellon Bank in Pittsburgh! Note the following FCC News Release:



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## **FCC BUREAU CLARIFIES AMATEUR STATION VANITY CALL SIGN FILING PROCEDURES**

The FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, Washington, DC issued the following News Bulletin on September 12, 1996.

Filing Gate 2 will open for Amateur Station Vanity call sign requests on September 23, 1996 (see Public Notice 64756 released August 22, 1996). The Commission's lockbox contractor in Pittsburgh, PA (the Mellon Bank) has been inundated with inquiries concerning the filing gate and procedures.

All inquiries concerning Amateur Vanity call sign requests and the filing procedures should be directed to the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau's Consumer Assistance Branch in Gettysburg, PA, toll free (800) 322-1117. Do not call the Commission's lockbox contractor in Pittsburgh, PA.

Applications for vanity call sign requests, as well as other types of applications, are processed in receipt date order only, thus the time of delivery within that receipt date has no bearing on the order of processing within that receipt date. An application filed at 12:01 a.m. has the same processing priority as an application received at 11:59 p.m. that same day.

*Editors Note: This is a very important element of the vanity call sign assignment system. There is no advantage to filing electronically or attempting to have your application arrive as early in the day as possible in Pittsburgh. All applications received on a specific day are simply batched together and processed at random.*

Applications will be processed in the order they are received at the processor's work station. The Wireless Telecommunications Bureau requests that you take this into consideration when delivering your applications to Pittsburgh.

Again, any inquiries concerning Amateur Vanity call sign Form 610-V completion or filing procedures should be directed to (800) 322-1117

## **CONGRESSIONAL AMENDMENT TO PROTECT AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS PASSES TELE- COMMUNICATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE**

On September 12, 1996, Anna Eshoo, U.S. House of Representatives, 14<sup>th</sup> Congressional District of California issued the following press release.

Washington, D.C. — Thousands of amateur radio operators in the greater San Francisco Bay Area and around the country are today one step closer to receiving personal liability protection for their volunteer services to the Federal government thanks to an amendment offered by Rep. Anna Eshoo (D-CA).

The House Commerce Subcommittee on Telecom-

munications and Finance passed the legislation offered by Eshoo and Rep. Michael Oxley (R-OH), both Subcommittee members, during its consideration of H.R. 3957, The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Modernization Act of 1996.

The FCC relies on volunteer amateur radio operators to help prepare and administer amateur radio license examinations, as well as to monitor transmissions for Amateur Radio Service violations. These volunteers have greatly enhanced the self-regulatory nature of the Amateur Radio Service and saved the FCC thousands of dollars and countless hours of staff time.

Because they are not Federal government employees, their personal assets are at risk if legal actions are taken against them as a result of their volunteer service to the government. The Eshoo amendment states that individuals who provide volunteer amateur radio services for the FCC would be considered Federal employees only in terms of their personal liability for actions taken.

"Amateur radio operators — including 4,500 of them in California's 14<sup>th</sup> Congressional District alone — play a critical role in our national communications network," said Rep. Eshoo. "When there's an earthquake in California or a hurricane in North Carolina, these volunteers often are the only source of information for rescue crews, government officials, and concerned families. They save money by monitoring the airwaves on their own and it is unfair for them to have to have their personal assets on the line when they're lending a helping hand to Uncle Sam. The amendment will encourage more amateur radio operators to volunteer for government service."

Volunteer amateur radio operators run two programs for the FCC, the volunteer examination system and the volunteer monitoring program. The examination system allows operators to obtain the licenses they need to use their equipment and uses teams of three examiners to administer tests.

The monitoring system involved the use of licensees who listen to amateur frequencies for rule violations, such as false emergency reports. Volunteers are sometimes used as witnesses in license revocation and other enforcement proceedings.

The FCC started license suspension and revocation proceedings against an amateur radio operator based on allegations of malicious interference and used testimony from a monitor as evidence.

After the subject of the dispute reached a settlement with the FCC without admitting guilt, he filed a defamation suit against the volunteer who provided evidence.

Although the suit was eventually dismissed, the volunteer was forced to defend himself in court, suffering personal losses from the stress on his family and marriage as a result of the litigation. [End of Press Release]